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2. SOVIET LEADERS CALL FOR NEW ERA OF COEXISTENCE

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Comment on:

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Soviet leaders chose the visit to Moscow of an Albanian government-party delegation as the occasion for conciliatory speeches intended to reinforce the series of diplomatic and propaganda moves during the past month designed to restore Soviet international prestige. Khrushchev, Bulganin and Suslov made a special attempt to push events in Hungary and the Middle East permanently into the background and called for a new start in improving relations between all countries. Bulganin described his recent letters to Norway, Denmark and West Germany as efforts to improve relations with those countries.

In sharp contrast to the accusations against Tito made at the Soviet-Hungarian friendship meeting in mid-March, the Soviet leaders made a bid for better relations with Yugoslavia. Using Belgrade's own formula, Khrushchev asserted that attention should be concentrated not on differences but on "what brings the peoples of our two countries together in their struggle for socialism." Khrushchev called particularly for an improvement in Albanian-Yugoslav relations.

Although these remarks suggest that Moscow has decided to be more restrained in its relations with Belgrade, it is clear that it does not intend to retreat from the basic tenets objectionable to the Yugoslavs. For example, Khrushchev extolled the concept of the "socialist camp" as the only one which expresses correct relations between Communist countries, and Suslov said there could be no "basically different roads to socialism." He condemned the theory of "national Communism" which he said was being used by "certain theoreticians who describe themselves as Marxists and Communists!"

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3. KRISHNA MENON NAMED DEFENSE MINISTER IN NEW INDIAN CABINET

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Prime Minister Nehru's appointment of V. K. Krishna Menon as minister of defense in the reshuffled Indian cabinet announced on 17 April will curtail his activities as an international mediator.

It is not likely, however, to impair Menon's position as an influential adviser to Nehru, who has retained the foreign affairs portfolio. Menon, who was a minister without portfolio in the pre-election cabinet, has been strongly opposed by several leading cabinet members and officials. He will now speak from a position of greater official authority. He may continue to act occasionally as Nehru's personal envoy, particularly in connection with deliberations on the Kashmir case.

The new cabinet is composed almost entirely of those ministers in the old cabinet who have demonstrated their ability. A notable new member is S. K. Patil, Congress Party leader from Bombay, who has been named minister of irrigation and power. The appointment of Patil, who led the successful campaign against the Communist Party in Andhra in 1955, appears to be a reward for his recent campaign effort to assure Menon's election to parliament from Bombay.

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